

March – 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Banning of Unregulated Deposit Scheme Ordinance, passed by the Central Government will not affect the ongoing monthly schemes operated by jewellery and chit fund firms.
- ❖ A 10-year-old Tamilnadu boy Jaswant made an achievement by swimming across the Palk Strait from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanushkodi covering 32 kms in ten hours and 30 minutes.
- ❖ For the first time Indian Army will start a Mountaineering Expedition to one of the most dangerous peaks and the fifth highest mountain in the world, Mt Makalu(8485m) located in the Mahalangur Himalayas.
- ❖ United states have allotted 1 billion dollar and started building a portion of a border wall along its Mexican border.

TAMIL NADU

Exclusive Investigation Wing

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Police will soon have an exclusive investigation wing in all the 1,500 police stations across the state.
- ❖ The specially formed investigation wing will replace the existing crime wing.
- ❖ As per Tamil Nadu Police (Reforms) Act, 2013, the investigation wing will be responsible for investigation and prosecution of all cases registered in the station, including cases identified by the law and order wing.
- ❖ The police officers allotted to the investigation wing shall not be diverted to any bandobust work without permission from Commissioner or Zonal IG.

Hump-backed Mahseer Fish

- ❖ The hump-backed mahseer—a large freshwater fish also called the ‘Tiger of the water’ and is found only in the Cauvery river basin.
- ❖ The fish got its scientific name ‘*Tor remadevii*’ only in 2018.
- ❖ The fish is now added to “Critically Endangered” list as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List of Threatened Species.



- ❖ Shoal, an international organisation working to conserve freshwater species has initiated 'Project Mahseer' to enable conservation action for the hump-backed mahseer.



NATIONAL

India-Africa Health Sciences Platform (IAHSP)

- ❖ An agreement has been signed between India and the African Union to initiate and strengthen the cooperation in health sector in a structured and organised manner.
- ❖ This agreement will focus on cooperation in the areas of R & D, capacity building, health services, pharma trade and manufacturing capabilities for drugs and diagnostics.
- ❖ IAHSP was first established in 2016.

FB role in Election

- ❖ Facebook has launched two India-specific tools to boost civic engagement on its platform during the general elections – Candidate Connect and Share you voted.

Candidate Connect:

- ❖ Through this feature Candidates contesting in the elections can post 20 second videos of their poll promise.
- ❖ Facebook will ensure that such videos of all contestants in a constituency will show up on the timeline of people in that area.

Share You Voted:

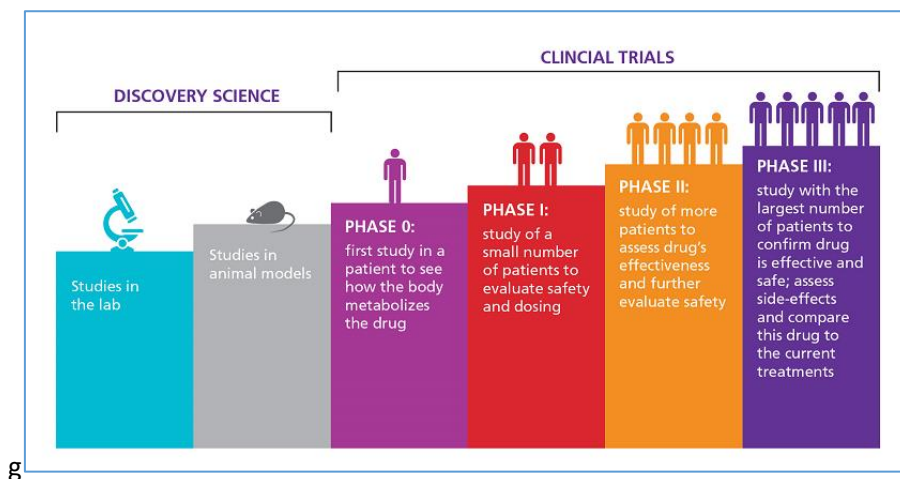
- ❖ This feature will provide people with polling information and enable them to announce and celebrate their vote.
- ❖ FB and FB-owned messaging applications such as WhatsApp have been repeatedly scrutinized by the Indian government and security agencies, and asked to prevent spread of false information.

Virtual SIM

- ❖ Indian Security agencies have identified that terrorists used Virtual SIM for communication during Pulwama attack and avoided mobile phones.
- ❖ In this technology, the computer generates a telephone number and the user downloads an application of the service provider on their smartphone.
- ❖ The number is linked to social networking sites like WhatsApp, Facebook, Telegram or Twitter and used instantly.

Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019

- ❖ The Union Ministry for Health and Family Welfare has notified the Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules with an aim to promote clinical research in the country.



- ❖ The new rules will ensure patient safety and the ethics committee will monitor the trials and decide on the amount of compensation in cases of adverse events.
- ❖ Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has waived off the clinical trial for the drugs approved and marketed in the European Union, the UK, Australia, Canada, Japan and the US.

- ❖ Clinical trial is a research study that determines whether a new drug is both safe and effective for humans.

INTERNATIONAL

Recycling e-waste

- ❖ The world's largest integrated electric and electronic waste (e-waste) recycling facility 'The Recycling Hub' was opened in Dubai.
- ❖ This plant will process Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), IT asset disposition (ITAD), refrigerant gas, industrial and military waste.

ECONOMY

PNB fined 2 Crores

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has slapped a penalty of Rs.2 crores on Punjab National Bank (PNB) for non-compliance of regulatory directions with regard to SWIFT operations.
- ❖ SWIFT is a global messaging software used for transactions by financial entities.
- ❖ SWIFT which stands for Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications.
- ❖ SWIFT code is used for international fund transfer.

ENVIRONMENT

Micro Plastics in Water

- ❖ The presence of microplastics in some drinking water sources in the Chennai and in Puzhal reservoir was detected.
- ❖ Microplastics in drinking water, when heated over 100-degree Celsius, releases a toxic substance called dioxin.
- ❖ The dioxin is a known carcinogen, dissolves in the water, posing health risks to consumers.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Turing Award

- ❖ The 2018 Turing Award, known as the “Nobel Prize of computing,” has been given to a trio of researchers.
- ❖ Yoshua Bengio, Geoffrey Hinton, and Yann LeCun have received the award.
- ❖ These researchers only laid the foundations for the current boom in artificial intelligence and called as ‘Godfathers of Artificial Intelligence’
- ❖ They developed a technique in the 1990s and 2000s which enabled huge breakthroughs in tasks like computer vision and speech recognition.
- ❖ Facial recognition in phones, automated medical diagnosis, self-driving cars is some of the results of their work.

Alan Mathieson Turing Award

- ❖ The award is named after British mathematician and computer scientist Alan Mathison Turing (1912-54).
- ❖ Turing’s work in codebreaking is credited with having played a decisive role in World War II.
- ❖ The Turing award was first given in 1966.

SPORTS

Infosys – French Open

- ❖ Infosys has signed a three-year partnership agreement with Roland-Garros to provide a technology solution for tennis tournament The French Open.
 - ❖ French Open is the premier clay court tennis championship event in the world and the second of four annual Grand Slam tournaments.
 - ❖ Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open are the other three Grand Slam tournaments.
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